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Anna Tran
Committee Manager,
Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning

Via email: environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee

**Transcript Corrections – The electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024 -
Transcript of evidence on 06/03/2025 - Jay Nankivell**

Please accept the following clarification of a 'mistake of fact' and as per the hearing, where I had stated clarification would be required.

Page 51 - I had stated that the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) had it's first meeting on the Monday Night. This was incorrect as clarified later in the hearing. The first REMC (that Council was invited to) was held on Saturday 19/10/2024 at 11:30am CDST.

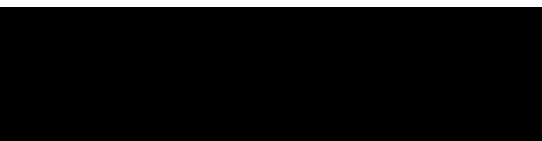
Page 53 - As per the above paragraph, I had stated that the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) had it's first meeting on the Monday Night. This was incorrect as clarified later in the hearing. The first REMC (that Council was invited to) was held on Saturday 19/10/2024 at 11:30 CDST.

The reason for the mistake in time was due to the nature of the power outages particularly for the Broken Hill Local Government Area. Once power was reestablished to Broken Hill on Thursday (17/10/2024) morning around 8:00am CDST, there was no ongoing issues with Broken Hill's supply, apart from some possible load shedding during peak hours. This Saturday REMC apart from some general updates on generator delivery for vulnerable sites, focused mainly around the Natural Disaster Declaration and collating information for it's submission. (Copies of emails attached).

Cont'd....

However, following the Sunday 20/10/2024 REMC, there was advice that the generator was going to be switched off that evening from 11pm until 5am, for planned routine maintenance and would be operational again by the early hours of Monday morning (21/10/2024). This did not occur and power was not supplied until around 8:30am CDST. It was following a further generator failure Monday evening around 5:00pm CDST that the emergency REMC meeting was scheduled for later that evening at 9:30pm CDST, following internal investigation as to why the generator required to be switched off and if/when power would be resumed.

Your faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER

From: [Matthew Apps](#)

To:



Subject: Far West REOC Sitrep 2 re Far Western NSW power outage [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Saturday, 19 October 2024 5:43:13 PM

Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Far West REMC SITREP 02 20241019.pdf](#)

Good afternoon (Excusing Rank),

Please find today's sitrep attached from the Far West REOC and Central Darling LEOC.

Regards,



Matthew Apps MIAEM, MAIES
Regional Emergency Management Officer
Far West Emergency Management Region

[Redacted contact information]

E: [Redacted] **M:** [Redacted] **P:** [Redacted] **EN:**

[Redacted]

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SITUATION REPORT #02

Far West Emergency Operations Centre

Covering LGAs Broken Hill, Central Darling and Unincorporated

19/10/2024

Issued: 1730hrs

SITUATION

On the 17th of October 2024 a storm swept through the far western area of NSW south of Broken Hill causing a power outage where 7 power line towers were destroyed. This resulted in the towns of Broken Hill, Tibooburra, Menindee, Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Ivanhoe to loose power as the main feeder line (220kV) was affected and subsequently the 66kV lines to Menindee and Wilcannia

A backup generator kicked in to supply power, but this is not enough to supply power to all of the affected area and load shedding was introduced.

By 1830 18/10/24, power was restored to the towns across the area. However, load shedding will need to continue within Broken Hill to ensure power is supplied due to only having one generator online.

To combat the incident the EUSFA Coordinator has partially enacted the Electricity Supply Emergency Sub Plan of the State EMPLAN for the affected area. EUSFA in conjunction with the NSW Reconstruction Authority are compiling data to apply for a Natural Disaster Declaration. It is envisaged this will be completed today.

The LEOCON for the incident is Inspector Chris Wallace and REOCON Assistant Commissioner Andrew Holland.

The Central Darling LEOC was opened as of 1500hrs 17 October 2024, and the Far West REOC was opened at 1700hrs 17 October 2024. Both are operating virtually.

Due to the nature of the incident, this sitrep shall be utilised as a combined one for both the Central Darling LEMC and Far West REMC.

IMPACT ISSUES

It is still anticipated the 220kV line will take 3 to 4 weeks to get back online to restore one line of power and months to fully restore back to business as usual.

The 66kV lines are currently restored and working, supplying power to Menindee, Wilcannia and White Cliffs.

Generators are still arriving to supply power to affected properties, businesses and infrastructure as back up to ensure if the power does go out, power will be available.

Checks upon isolated communities and vulnerable persons have been made, where assistance from the RFS was greatly appreciated.

Mining in Broken Hill has been reduced where the total cost of scaling back operations will not be known until Monday. Perilya have been instrumental in reducing their power usage.

Checks organised through NSW Police Force Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers and members of the Central Darling LEMC EOC have been undertaken re food spoilage. No apparent issues have been identified. This will be monitored.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Power lines connected to the 220kV line, 66kV lines and other essential lines are being patrolled and monitored for any faults.

Restoration of telecommunication towers is nearing completion, where Telstra have generators in place to restore the battery backups.

DLM:

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Overnight, the RFS has arrived in Menindee and Wilcannia and have unloaded their equipment to support the community. Of note a Star Link tower was installed at Menindee Central School.

Other Government agencies and organisations are sending generators to the area to provide power where required.

Intending travellers to the Far West **continue to be** asked to avoid the area.

Refuelling of generators and ensuring pumps for water and waste facilities are being checked and contingencies put into place **if the power does go back off.**

The Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Heritage and the Environment in conjunction with EUSFA are reminding the community across Broken Hill to limit their power usage between 1730 and 2200 (ACDT), to limit the impact on the power supply.

Transgrid and Essential Energy are developing plans to limit the amount of load shedding. If the community adheres to the lower power usage during the peak period and utilises their solar power during the day. Then load shedding may not need to occur.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Review fuel needs for the area
- Potentially in the coming days, the generator will need to go offline for approximately 1 hour for maintenance. This will be broadcasted to the community with plenty of notice for when this is to occur.
- Ongoing engagement of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers
- Engagement with media for community messaging

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

- Best timeframes for restoration works of power network

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Community focused recovery
- Understanding of long term impact of incident on the community

Prepared By:	Approved By:
Matthew Apps	Andrew Holland
Regional Emergency Management Officer	Region Emergency Operations Controller

DLM:

Upon Completion this document is to sent to:

LEOCON, Local EM Partners and Stakeholder
REOCON, Region EM Partners and Stakeholders

SEOC: [REDACTED]
IEMC: [REDACTED]